

1. INTRODUCTION

BLUEBERRY HILL, 7K-C-107, was the remnant of a stratified procurement site dating to the Paleo-Indian and Archaic periods, overlain by a micro-band base camp dating to the Woodland period. This latter occupation was heavily disturbed by cultivation. The original extent of the site, as it existed in prehistoric times, cannot be determined because of disturbance on the inland side.

The site came to the authors' attention during investigations prompted by plans to build a road connecting Delaware Route 1 with Saulsbury Road, roughly parallel to Denney's Road (Heite and Blume 1992). The new road will be called Scarborough Road.

In order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, and other regulations, the Delaware Department of Transportation

engaged Edward Heite to conduct Phase I and Phase II cultural resources investigations in the proposed corridor. The consultant in turn engaged Cara L. Blume to analyse the prehistoric aspects. The project area was generally the two proposed alternative rights-of-way and certain adjacent areas that might be impacted.

Phase I work in the corridor was conducted by Heite personally, working alone, beginning October 9, 1989, ending in November 1990. Blume joined the project when Phase II work began, in summer 1991.

Phase III data recovery began in late summer 1991 and continued through the winter of 1991-1992. Virtually all the site was removed during salvage excavations reported here.

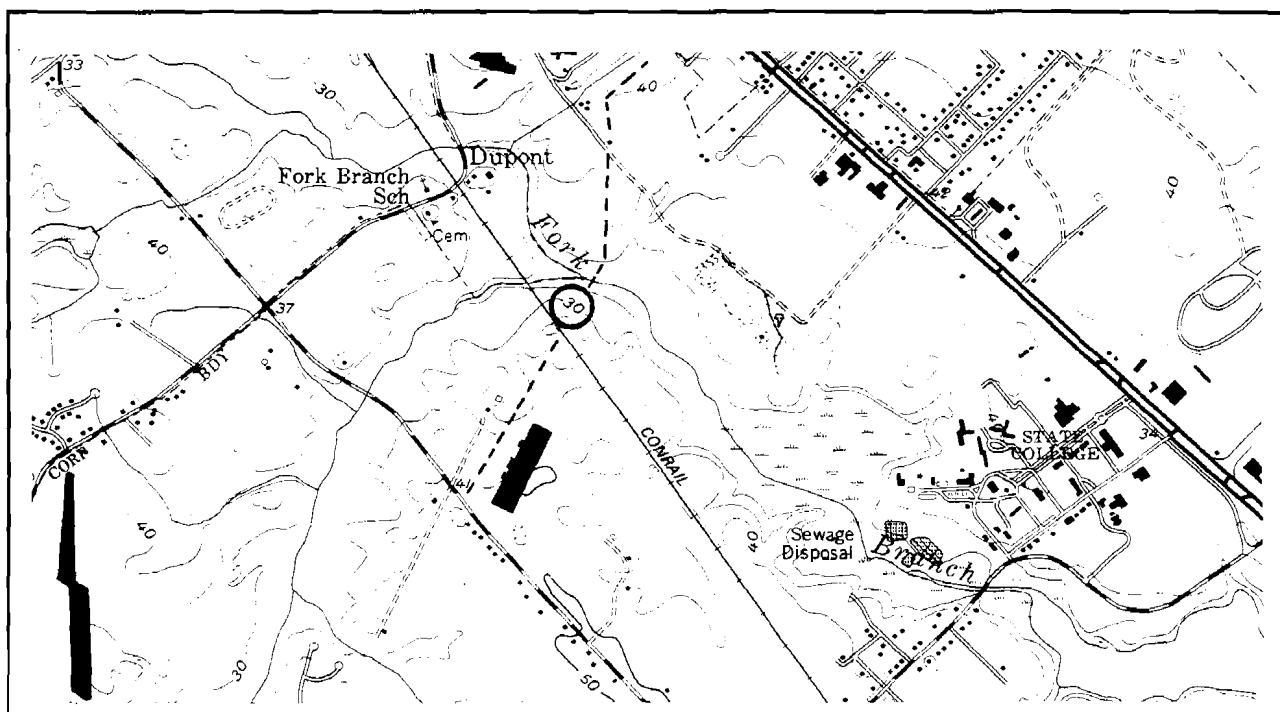


Figure 1
Location Map

Detail of USGS Dover quadrangle 7.5 minute series. Site is circled. Dashed line indicates proposed course of Scarborough Road.



Plate 1

Photograph of the project area from the air

White circle indicates the location of the site. North is at the top. The railroad bridge over Maidstone Branch is at the top of the picture, and the sand pit is in foreground.

Blueberry Hill was eligible for listing in the National Register under criterion D, sites that have yielded, or may be expected to yield, information valuable to our understanding of history or prehistory (See discussion on page 18, below).

Phase II testing indicated that stratified æolian deposits at the site dated from before 8500 B.C. to perhaps as late as 1000 B.C. Phase III excavation demonstrated that the æolian deposits dated no later than 6000 B. C. Thus, these deposits contained intact and undisturbed activity areas from the earliest and least understood periods of Delaware prehistory, the Paleo-Indian and the Archaic. Woodland I and II period

occupations also are present at Blueberry Hill, but are limited to the disturbed A horizon except where pit features had penetrated below the occupation surface.

The site proved to be especially significant because its various cultural deposits were separated by deposits of sterile æolian sand. In this respect, it provided favorable conditions not found in sites that were more densely endowed with artifacts. The field research strategy was designed to enhance the benefits of these natural conditions, providing a unique opportunity to view prehistoric occupation events in isolation.



Plate 2

After Excavation

Photograph of the center section of the site, looking toward grid east
Features 2-3 are at left. Units are a meter square.